

Message Text

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67

ACTION NEA-10

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R 291030Z OCT 75

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9302

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KARACHI 2355

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PK

SUBJECT: MORE BALUCHISTAN DISSIDENT ACTIVITY REPORTED IN OCTOBER

REF: A) ISLAMABAD 9249 B) KARACHI 2274

1. RECENT NEWSPAPER REPORTS INDICATE THAT AUGUST-SEPTEMBER REVIVAL OF PRO-NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY (NAP) TRIBAL DISSIDENT ACTIVITY (REFTELS) IS APPARENTLY CONTINUING. LATEST EDITION OF WIDELY-CIRCULATED URDU WEEKLY "AKHBAR-E-JAHAN" CARRIED STORY TO EFFECT THAT 15 ARMY OR PARA-MILITARY TROOPS WERE AMBUSHED AND KILLED ON RCD HIGHWAY NEAR KALAT IN MID-OCTOBER. (GUERRILLAS IN KALAT AREA KNOWN AS SARAWAN, NORTH OF JHALAWAN, ARE PRIMARILY MENGALS SAID TO BE LED BY SULEMAN BALUCH, A SON OF PRINCE AHGA ABDUL KARAIM AND NEPHEW OF THE BALUCHISTAN GOVERNOR.) "AKHBAR -E-JAHAN" STORY ADDED THAT TWO MORE SIMILAR INCIDENTS TOOK PLACE IN BALUCHISTAN IN OCTOBER BUT NO FURTHER DETAILS HAD COME TO LIGHT. ON OCTOBER 27, LOCAL AFGHAN CONSUL GENERAL, A NOTORIOUSLY UNRELIABLE SOURCE, TOLD CONGEN OFFICER THAT 90 PAKISTANI ARMED SERVICES, PARA-MILITARY, AND POLICE PERSONNEL HAD BEEN KILLED BY GUERILLAS IN

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BALUCHISTAN IN OCTOBER.

2. OFFICIAL STATEMENTS BY BALUCHISTAN MINISTERS, ESPECIALLY THE CHIEF MINISTER, HAVE STRESSED THAT THE PROVINCE WAS ENTIRELY PACIFIED. PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO, IN HIS RECENT INTERVIEW WITH "KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL" OF TEHRAN (REPUBLISHED HERE OCTOBER 21), PRESENTED A MORE REALISTIC ASSESSMENT. HE NOTED THAT "THE TRIBAL REBELLION IS BROKEN...BUT SMALL ARMED GROUPS ARE STILL AROUND ", AS SHOWN BY THEIR SEPTEMBER 12 ATTACK ON "A MILITARY TRAIN" (REF B). CITING INCREASED DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURES IN BALUCHISTAN AS A POSITIVE FACTOR, BHUTTO NONETHELESS FORESAW THAT THE LOCALIZED ARMED INSURGENCY MIGHT LONG CONTINUE. HE RULED OM "ANY REVIVAL OF LARGE-SCALE REBELLION". BHUTTO ADDED THAT ONLY ONE "SMALL COUNTRY IN THE REGION" (WHICH BUT AFGHANISTAN?) CONTINUES TO "AID AND ABET" THE TRIBAL DISSIDENTS.

3. COMMENT: PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO'S TOUR OF BALUCHISTAN, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO PRECEDE HIS VISIT TO FRANCE, HAS BEEN POSTPONED. HE MAY MAKE THE TRIP NEXT MONTH. JUDGING FROM HIS PAST VISITS (THE LAST IN APRIL 1975), HIS PERSONAL SAFETY CAN BE ASSURED. WHETHER THE DISSIDENTS WILL MOUNT A CAMPAIGN TO COINCIDE WITH HIS VISIT OR WITH THE SUPREME COURT DECISION IN THE NAP CASE (EXPECTED IN A FEW DAYS) WILL BE WORTH WATCHING. CONGEN OFFICERS ARE PLANNING TO VISIT QUETTA NOVEMBER 19-21, BY WHICH TIME THE SEASONAL COLD MAY HAVE DIMINSHED THE DISSIDENTS' ARDOR AND THE SITUATION MAY HAVE BECOME SOMEWHAT LESS MURKY.
MOORE

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